

NATION

Uni's pregnancy warning

FEMALE students attending the University of Natural Resources and Environment Vudal campus in East New Britain have been told that the institute will not entertain pregnancies.

Acting registrar Gamoga Bogarei made this known during orientation for new intakes.

"Student pregnancy is a concern in any institute and PNGUNRE is no exception," he said.

He urged all females to be extra careful and to make use of the counselling service that was available at the student support services or clinic.

Bogarei reminded students that parents and guardians were sacrificing in order to pay for their education and they should make it their business to succeed.

He said a student's success or failure depended on how they managed

their time. "Do not misuse your time here. Always balance your mental, spiritual and physical activities in order to live a healthy life."

"Stay away from negative influences and remain focused on your studies. You are part of the development process of this university and as we grow with academic characters and social habits, discipline will continue to be a challenge," Bogarei said.

He said many graduates were in the public and private sectors while others were entrepreneurs contributing meaningfully to the development of the nation.

Bogarei said quite a number of graduates had gained post-graduate qualifications in universities overseas and many more were passing their knowledge to the future generation through education or non-governmental organisations.

Parental guidance vital: Journalist

PAPUA New Guinea made international headlines about a week ago when Google revealed it was the most porn-obsessed country in the world, a church reporter says.

The results were shown through the Google internet search engines.

Catholic reporter Giorgio Licini told *The National* that while Papua New Guinea was ranked as the most porn-obsessed country, prostitution was on the rise with local and foreign sex workers being hired in the country.

Licini said a teacher of a well-known secondary school in the country revealed that the boys' dormitory was always illuminated until late by cell phone lights.

He said it was an indication of questionable internet surfing.

"It is a waste of time calling for legislation, censorship or blocking of websites" Licini said.

He said only parental guidance, good education, a healthy relationship, community service, religious practice and church involvement took young minds off mischief.

"It is much more consoling and encouraging to see young people happy and lovingly taking care of their family than watching them tear their life apart with occasional partners, by roaming the streets or become internet addicts."

Accessing the internet through cell phones had made it easy for people of all walks of life to access illegal things like pornography.

"When most people become obsessed to watching porn, the Government moves to filter questionable internet sites."

He said parental guidance was important.

Gender inequality marginalising women

GENDER equality is marginalising women in Papua New Guinea in terms of key government priority areas, Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council (CIMC) executive director Wallis Yakam says.

However, Yakam said women should not give up hope but work towards establishing ways to strengthen their rights.

Speaking during the second PNG Women's Forum co-hosted by the US Embassy and Department for Community Development this week in Port Moresby, Yakam said gender-based violence was an issue in the country and should be addressed at a higher level to really look at the state of violence against women.

"Now that we have the forum here with international partners trying to address the issue with government, the government is now taking good progress with policy and legislative initiatives," Yakam said.

She said there was no coordinated effort specifically for women, with central agencies doing their own thing and nothing tied up in the budget.

"There is nothing for women in the annual budget. For example, the National Council of Women - there is nothing for women," she said. Yakam said if the government was serious about addressing gender



Panel participant Rita Karre (right), owner of Steakhaus Restaurant in Goroka during a group discussion yesterday. Today is the final day of the forum. - Nationalpic by GEVOKILA ALFRED

equality and gender-based violence, it should provide support in terms of allocating funds for women in the annual budgets and provide capacity and incentives for them. She said institutions that dealt with gender

and gender-related issues should be elevated to a level where they were given recognition by the government so that coordination and management were strengthened.

She said with the new Office for

Development of Women, women leaders should stand together and take the Government initiative seriously if they were serious about addressing equality instead of working in isolation.

Thousands of people to benefit from road upgrading

MORE than 20,000 people living in the Karintz local level government of Mendi-Munihi district are expected to benefit soon from a good road.

The Tulum to Olea road, which was built during the colonial days connecting Kandep district in Enga, is to be repaired and upgraded.

Local MP and Vice-Minister for Works and Implementation De Kewanu bought a new PC200 excavator and launched it at the Tulum vil-

lage. Kewanu allocated K300,000 for the road and the excavator is scheduled to start work today.

Kewanu said the road would connect people from Olea, Posulim, Pingirip and even Komba from Kandep. He said the road had been neglected since it was built and had turned into a bush track.

"Since I took office, I've given roads and bridges priority in the district in order to allow other services to flow in and this is one of the

roads," Kewanu said. He said within two years of taking office, he had delivered 80km of road works and constructed four Bailey bridges.

"I received K20 million in district services improvement programme funds from the Government and put that into full use," Kewanu said.

He said two roads that would open this year are Bela-Kunil and Nene-Mogol loop road, joining the back end of Karintz and Upper Mendi local level government, and the Tu-

lum-Olea-Pingirip and Paip-Kunil road which Governor William Powi is assisting with.

"These two important loop roads will overhaul the rural people's livelihoods," he said.

Kewanu told the people that he had bought a fully-kitted tractor for farming three months ago.

He said no one had approached his district administration to use it. Kewanu said that his three local level government council presidents

and Mendi town mayor did a tremendous job in weeding out marijuana and stopping homebrew production in his district.

He said that he gave K100,000 to each of the council presidents to assist people affected in the exercise to help them engage in other economic activities.

"The weeding out marijuana and homebrew production will decrease law and order problem in the electorate."

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